

# **MIRCaI**

## **Edit Flag Description Guide**

### **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT and AMBULATORY SURGERY DATA**

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**Version 7**



Medical Information Reporting for California

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## SUMMARY OF CHANGES VERSION 7

Effective with encounters occurring on and after January 1, 2008:

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Added text pertaining to the new Comparative Edit Program

### PAGE 6

#### **MIRCAL EDIT PROGRAMS AT-A-GLANCE**

Added text pertaining to the new Comparative Edit Program

### PAGE 11

#### **NEW!!: COMPARATIVE EDIT PROGRAM**

The Comparative Edit Program evaluates data for “reasonable” distribution of data within each data element category for the current report period. If the percentage reported is greater than expected, then the data element category will fail the Comparative Edit. Comparative Edits are not applied to Blank or Invalid data.

Refer to Pages 11 through 13 for detailed information on this new edit program and its eleven (11) edit flags and descriptions.

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#### **INVALID SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) RANGES**

Social Security Numbers beginning with 754 through 772 are valid.

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#### **CRITICAL STANDARD EDIT FLAGS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

**ADDED:** NINE (9) STANDARD EDITS TO THE STANDARD EDIT PROGRAM

##### **Age Edits (4):**

- S021 - Age is illogical with Principal Diagnosis Code
- S105 - Age is illogical with Other Diagnosis Code
- S108 - Age is illogical with Principal E-Code
- S109 - Age is illogical with Other E-Code

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**CRITICAL STANDARD EDIT FLAGS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

**Sex Edits (4):**

- S011 - Sex is illogical with Male Principal Diagnosis Code
- S086 - Sex is illogical with Female Principal Diagnosis Code
- S087 - Sex is illogical with Male Other Diagnosis Code
- S088 - Sex is illogical with Female Other Diagnosis Code

**Principal Procedure Edit (1):**

S128 - An Evaluation and Management (E&M) CPT code should not be reported as Principal Procedure when there are other surgical procedures reported on the record. Switch the E&M Code with one of the Other Procedures that is more closely related to the Principal Diagnosis and is the chief reason for the encounter.

The S128 edit is based on OSHPD's reporting requirements for Principal Procedure. Regulations state that the *"Principal Procedure is one that is surgical in nature, or carries a procedure risk, or carries an anesthetic risk. **The procedure related to the Principal Diagnosis, as the chief reason for the encounter shall be selected as the Principal Procedure.**"*

REF: Section 97262 in the California ED and AS Data Reporting Manual, Second Edition (Rev. 7/07)

How the S128 edit flag is applied to the data: MIRCal checks the Principal Procedure on each record and if an E&M code is reported as the Principal Procedure (CPT-4 code range 99201 through 99499), and there are other **surgical** procedures reported on the record (CPT-4 code range 10021 thru 69999), then the Principal Procedure and each other surgical procedure will receive an S128 flag.

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## I INTRODUCTION

There are currently four (4) MIRCal edit programs applied to Emergency Department and Ambulatory Surgery encounter data. A facility's data are processed through the following MIRCal edit programs:

- Transmittal Validation
- Standard Edit Program
- Trend Edit Program
- NEW!!** Comparative Edit Program

Each record is edited, and any errors found within the record are identified by edit flags.

These edit programs have been developed to promote reliable, accurate, and quality data.

This guide provides detailed information about each edit program, the applicable Error Tolerance Levels, and a list of the edit flags and their descriptions.

## II MIRCAL EDIT PROGRAMS AT-A-GLANCE

### UNDERSTANDING THE MIRCAL EDIT PROGRAMS

Your data will be rejected if it fails any of the edit programs described below.

"Fail" means your data is not at or below the established Error Tolerance Level (ETL).

Understanding these edit programs and the reasons your data might fail are very important when determining the best way to correct errors.

**If your data fails the Transmittal Validation, it will be rejected and will not be processed through the remaining edit programs.**

| Program                   | Description  | Likely Cause of Failure  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Transmittal Validation    | Checks for proper file format and compares the "Expected" (based on the Transmittal Page information) to "Actual" data submitted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Virus infected file</li><li>• No data in file</li><li>• Multiple files in a Zip file</li><li>• Incorrect file format</li><li>• Discrepancy in the number of records submitted. There is a difference of more than twenty (20) records.</li><li>• One (1) or more records are reported with a Service Date that is blank, invalid, or outside the Report Period.</li><li>• Incorrect Facility ID Number on one or more records</li><li>• MIRCal Database capacity error</li></ul> | Your data did not pass one or more of the transmittal validations            |
| Trend Edit (T flag)       | This edit program compares the data in the current report period to the facility's historical data to identify uncharacteristic increases or decreases in percentages reported for certain data elements/categories.   | Your data caused the program to generate one or more Critical Trend flags    |
| Comparative Edit (C Flag) | Based on the TOTAL records reported, checks for reasonable distribution of categories within each data element for the Current Report Period.<br><br>EXAMPLE: If 100% of your records are reported as Expected Source of Payment-Other, this program will generate a Comparative Edit flag and your data will fail.  | Your data caused the program to generate one or more Comparative Edit flags. |
| Standard Edit (S flag)    | Checks for data entry errors and inconsistencies of data reported within each record.<br><br><u>EXAMPLE:</u> Date of Birth is after the Service Date   | More than 2% of your records contain standard edit errors                    |

### III TRANSMITTAL VALIDATION

#### **OVERVIEW**

Transmittal Validation consists of three (3) levels of validation: The first level checks files for viruses and for empty, incomplete or multiple files. The second level checks for proper file format. The third level checks for discrepancies in the number of records submitted, invalid service dates, incorrect facility ID numbers, and MIRCal Database capacity errors.

**Data must pass all three levels of validation before continuing on to the Standard Edit Program.**

#### **How do I know if my data failed Transmittal Validation?**

Transmittal Validation Edits are identified by Error Messages. Access the "Main Error Summary for All Edit Programs" to see if your data passed or failed Transmittal Validation. This Summary displays either "Pass" or "Fail". If the data has failed Transmittal Validation, the applicable error message(s) will be displayed.

To access the Main Error Summary: click on "Main Error Summary" on the Main Menu.

#### **FIRST LEVEL OF TRANSMITTAL VALIDATION EDITS**

The first level checks for the following:

- Virus infected file
- Empty file (no data contained in the file)
- Multiple files in a Zip file

If the data fails any one of these transmittal edits, it will be rejected immediately and all further data editing is terminated.

Once data passes the first level of edits, it will continue on to the second level of Transmittal Validation.

#### **SECOND LEVEL OF TRANSMITTAL VALIDATION EDITS:**

The second level Identifies incorrect file format. If data fails any one of six (6) incorrect file format edits, it will be rejected immediately and all further editing is terminated.

Once data passes the second level, it will continue through the third level of Transmittal Validation.

#### **THIRD LEVEL OF TRANSMITTAL VALIDATION EDITS:**

The third level checks for the following:

- Discrepancy in Number of Records submitted
- "Invalid" Service Dates
- Incorrect Facility ID Number
- MIRCal Database capacity error

If the data fails one or more of these transmittal edits, it will be rejected and all further data editing is terminated.

Once data passes the third level, it will continue on to the Trend and Standard Edit Validation.

## **TRANSMITTAL ERROR MESSAGES**

For additional information on Transmittal Errors and how to correct them, please go to the MIRCal website at <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HID/MIRCal/ManualsGuides.html> and click on the link Troubleshooting Guide for Transmittal Errors, Rev 2/06.

| <b><i>Transmittal Edit</i></b>                         | <b><i>Error Message<br/>(Displayed on Main Error Summary)</i></b>   |
|--|---|
| <b>I. FIRST LEVEL OF EDITING</b>                       |   |
| • Checks for Viruses                                   | • Virus infected file. Transmission of data was terminated.   |
| • Does the file contain data? (Empty file)             | • No data contained in the file.  |
| • Multiple files in a Zip file                         | • Zip file contains multiple files.   |
| <b>II. SECOND LEVEL OF EDITING</b>                     |   |
| • Incorrect File Format                                | • File contains non-ASCII character(s).   |
| • Incorrect File Format                                | • Record length is more than 382 bytes.   |
| • Incorrect File Format                                | • Record length is less than 382 bytes.   |
| • Incorrect File Format                                | • No Carriage Control <u>and/or</u> Line Feed at bytes 383 and 384, respectively.   |
| • Incorrect File Format                                | • No Line Feed at byte 384.   |
| <b>III. THIRD LEVEL OF EDITING</b>                     |   |
| • Discrepancy in the Total Number of Records submitted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of records submitted does not match the number of records entered on the Transmittal screen. There is a difference of more than 20 records.</li> <li>• NOTE: The "Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs" displays the <u>difference</u> between the number of records actually submitted and the number of records entered in the box on the 'Transmittal for File Submission' or 'Transmittal for Web Entry Records' screen.</li> </ul> |
| • Records with Service Dates outside the Report Period | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One (1) or more records are reported with a Service Date that is blank, invalid, or outside the Report Period.</li> <li>• NOTE: The "Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs" displays the number of records with an incorrect Service Date.</li> </ul>   |
| • Incorrect Facility ID Number                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorrect Facility ID Number reported.</li> <li>• NOTE: The "Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs" displays the incorrect Facility ID and the number of records affected</li> </ul>  |
| • MIRCal database capacity error                       | • MIRCal database capacity error. The number of records in the MIRCal database does not match the number of records submitted. Contact your OSHPD analyst immediately.  |



## IV TREND EDIT PROGRAM

### **OVERVIEW**

The Trend Edit Program is designed to check for inconsistencies in data by comparing data submitted in the current report period to data submitted in the last two (2) (historical) report periods. If the difference between the current data and the historical data is more than a specified percentage, then a T (critical) or TW (non-critical) flag is applied to that data element or data element category. The facility must review any critical T flags in the data and verify whether or not the data is correct as reported.

**Data will fail the Trend Edit Program if one or more Critical Trend Flags (T) are identified in the data.**

Please see next page for a list of the Trend Edit Flags and their descriptions.

The Trend Edit Program will not apply edits to a data element if:

- A data element in the current report period has a Modification, Non-Compliance or Variant Action.
- The current report period is less than 60 days. Conversely, an historical report period that is less than 60 days will not be used for trend analysis.
- There is no historical data for the facility (e.g., new facility)

### **How do I know if my data failed the Trend Edit Program?**

Check the "Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs" to see if your data passed or failed the Trend Edit Program. The Summary will display either "Pass" or "Fail" for this edit program. For "Fail" status, the Summary also displays the number of trend edit flags identified in the data.

To access this Summary: click on "Main Error Summary" on the Main Menu.

### **DEFINITIONS AND REPORTS**

#### **Critical Trend (T) Flag**

A "T" flag, followed by a 3-digit number, identifies a Critical Trend Edit Flag.

A T-flag will result when the current data fails the Trend Edit in both historical report periods or it fails the Trend Edit against the only available historical report period. The affected data element category will receive the applicable T-Flag.

#### **Trend Warning (TW) Flag (Non-Critical Error)**

A "TW" flag, followed by a 2-digit number, identifies a Warning (Non-Critical) Trend Edit Flag. A TW-flag will **not** cause the data to be rejected. A TW-flag will result when the current data fails the Trend Edit in one historical report period, and passes the Trend in the second historical report period. These flags are "warnings" that alert the facility to review possible errors in the data.

## **DEFINITIONS AND REPORTS (continued)**

### **Trend Edit Summary Report**

This report identifies the data element categories that have been flagged with a T or TW flag. This report includes the percentage or number of records reported in a data element for the Current Report Period; and the percentage or number in the historical report period(s) for the same data element.

To access this report: From the Main Menu, click on “Error Reports”, then under “Edit Programs-Trend Edits (T)”, click on “View” under “Summary Report”. You can print and/or save this PDF report.

### **Data Distribution Report**

This is a 2-page report that displays each data element and lists the numerical and percentage breakdown of records within each data element category. Use this report to compare the data element categories that have been flagged with a “T” or “TW” flag to those categories (within the same data element) that were not flagged. It also may be useful to compare the “current” Data Distribution Report to “historical” Data Distribution Report(s) and look for any questionable increases or decreases in data element categories.

To access this report: From the Main Menu, click on “Error Reports”, then under Informational Reports, click on “View” next to “Data Distribution Report”. You can print and/or save this PDF report. Use the Data Distribution Report, in conjunction with the Trend Edit Summary Report, to help you determine if data is in error or is correct as reported.

## **TREND EDIT FLAGS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

**Critical Flags are identified as a T flag**

**Warning (Non-Critical) flags are identified as a TW flag**

| <b><i>Critical Trend Edit Flag</i></b> | <b><i>Description</i></b>   |
|--|---|
| T005                                   | The total number of records submitted (for the current report period) <u>decreased</u> more than 20%, when compared to your facility's historical data.                                     |
| TW05                                   | The total number of records submitted (for the current report period) <u>decreased</u> more than 20%, but data failed one historical report period and passed one historical report period. |
| T006                                   | The total number of records submitted (for the current report period) <u>increased</u> more than 20%, when compared to your facility's historical data.                                     |
| TW06                                   | The total number of records submitted (for the current report period) <u>increased</u> more than 20%, but data failed one historical report period and passed one historical report period. |

## V COMPARATIVE EDIT PROGRAM

### **OVERVIEW**

The Comparative Edit Program evaluates data for “reasonable” distribution of data within each data element category for the current report period. If the percentage reported is greater than expected, then the data element category will fail the Comparative Edit. Comparative Edits are not applied to Blank or Invalid data.

Comparative Edits are a “fixed” percentage that applies to all facilities regardless of size.

A C-Flag, followed by a 3-digit number, identifies Comparative Edits.

**Data will fail the Comparative Edit Program if one or more Comparative Edit Flags are identified in the data.**

#### **How do I know if my data failed the Comparative Edit Program?**

Check the "Main Error Summary for all Edit Programs" to see if your data passed or failed the Comparative Edits. The Summary displays either “Pass” or “Fail” for this edit program. For “Fail” status, the Summary also displays the number of comparative edit flags identified in the data.

To access this Summary: click on "Main Error Summary" on the Main Menu.

### **REPORTS**

#### **How does MIRCal determine if a data element category failed a Comparative Edit?**

- Based on the total records reported, MIRCal calculates the percentage of records reported in a data element category. If the reported data is greater than expected, then a C-flag is applied to that data element category.
- The Comparative Edit Summary Report displays all the data element categories that have been flagged with a C flag.

#### **Example of a Comparative Edit that is based on a fixed percentage:**

C015: All records (100%) are reported in one data element category for Disposition of Patient.

If a facility reports 100% of their records as Disposition of Patient-‘Other’, then the data will receive a C015 flag.

### **Comparative Edit Summary Report**

This report identifies the data element categories that have been flagged with a C flag. The report is in alphabetical order by data element and includes the data element category; percentage of records reported (Current Report Period); and the corresponding C flag.

To access this report: Click on “Error Reports” on the Main Menu, then under “Edit Programs-Comparative Edits (C)”, click on “View” under “Summary Report”. You can print and/or save this PDF report.

### **Data Distribution Report**

This is a 2-page report that displays each data element and lists the numerical and percentage breakdown of records within each data element category. Use this report to compare the data element categories that have been flagged with a “C” flag to those categories (within the same data element) that were not flagged.

To access this report: From the Main Menu, click on “Error Reports”, then under Informational Reports, click on “View” next to “Data Distribution Report”. You can print and/or save this PDF report.

Use the Data Distribution Report, in conjunction with the Comparative Edit Summary Report, to help you determine if data is in error or is correct as reported.

### **Report by Selected Data Element (custom report)**

When reviewing the Comparative Edit Summary Report, you may need to review records associated with a Comparative Edit Flag. For example, Expected Source of Payment-Other has a C017 flag— “All records (100%) are reported in one Expected Source of Payment category”. In order to correct these records, it would be helpful to generate a report that lists all records reported as Expected Source of Payment-Other.

You may need to contact your OSHPD analyst and request a “Report by Selected Data Element”. This custom report (all records reported as Expected Source of Payment-Other, sorted by Abstract Record Number) can be generated and posted on MIRCal. It can then be accessed by the facility and used for Comparative Edit error analysis. The report can only be accessed by the requesting facility.

**NOTE:** *If it is determined that the current data submitted is accurate, please contact your OSHPD Analyst to explain.*

## **CRITICAL COMPARATIVE EDIT FLAGS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

| <b><i>Comparative Edit Flag</i></b> | <b><i>Description</i></b>  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| C001                                | All records (100%) are reported in one Sex category: Male or Female.   |
| C003                                | Records reported as Sex-Unknown are more than 0.1% of total records reported.  |
| C004                                | All records (100%) are reported in one Ethnicity category.   |
| C006                                | All records (100%) are reported in one Race category.  |
| C009                                | Unknown ZIP Code (99999): Percentage of records reported is greater than 2%.   |
| C015                                | All records (100%) are reported in one Disposition of Patient category. Excludes "Home" and "Self Care" (routine discharge). |
| C016                                | Patient Disposition-Other: Percentage of records reported is greater than 1%.  |
| C017                                | All records (100%) are reported in one Expected Source of Payment category.  |
| C021                                | No Principal Procedure reported on any records.  |
| C031                                | Principal Diagnosis – 799.9 (Unspecified/unknown). Percentage of records reported is greater than 0.1%.                      |
| C033                                | Expected Source of Payment-Other: Percentage of records reported is greater than 2%.   |

## VI STANDARD EDIT PROGRAM

### **OVERVIEW**

The Standard Edit Program edits the data reported within each record. There are two (2) types of Standard Edits: Field Edits and Relational Edits. Field edits identify data elements that are blank, incomplete, or invalid. Relational edits identify illogical relationships between two or more data elements within the same record.

**The Error Tolerance Level (ETL) for Standard Edits is 2% of records with one or more Critical Standard Edit flags, based on the total records reported. All edit flags in a record are counted as one (1) error.**

#### **How do I know if my data failed the Standard Edit Program?**

Check the "Main Error Summary for All Edit Programs" to see if your data passed or failed the Standard Edit Program. This Summary displays either "Pass" or "Fail" and the number and percentage of records with an "S" flag.

To access the Main Error Summary: click on "Main Error Summary" on the Main Menu.

### **DEFINITIONS AND REPORTS**

#### **Critical Standard (S) Edit Flag**

An "S" flag, followed by a 3-digit number, identifies a Critical Standard Edit Flag. Critical S-Flags are applied toward the ETL. If there are more than 2% of records with one or more Critical S-flags, then the data will FAIL the Standard Edit Validation.

#### **Standard Edit Warning (SW) Flag (Non-Critical Error)**

An "SW" flag, followed by a 2-digit number, identifies a Standard Edit Warning Flag. SW-flags will not cause the data to be rejected since they are not applied toward the ETL. These warning flags are provided to alert the facility to review possible errors in the data.

#### **Standard Edit Summary Report**

This report displays all data elements with Standard Edit flags. There are two (2) tables: one for data elements that have S-flags (critical) and one for data elements that have SW-flags (warning). In each table, the data elements are listed in alphabetical order and include the number, flag, and percentage of S flag(s) within each data element. Use this Report to make sure that all errors are located and reviewed or corrected within each record.

#### **Standard Edit Detail Report**

This report displays records that have one or more S or SW-flags. This report is sorted by Service Date, then by Abstract Record Number within each Service Date.

To access these reports: click on "Error Reports" on the Main Menu.

### **INVALID SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) RANGES**

**SSNs with the following numbers are flagged as invalid (S002):**

- 7 or 8 identical numbers (except 000000001 – Unknown SSN)
- 9 identical numbers
- The first three (3) numbers are:
  - 000
  - 666
  - 734 through 749
  - 773 through 999
- The last 4 numbers are 0000
- Alpha characters
- 4th and 5th digits are 00

## **CRITICAL STANDARD EDIT FLAGS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

| <b><i>Critical Standard<br/>Edit Flag</i></b> | <b><i>Description</i></b>  |
|---|--|
| S001  | Blank  |
| S002  | Invalid. Data reported is not a valid OSHPD value.   |
| S011  | Sex is illogical with Male Principal Diagnosis Code  |
| S018  | Duplicate Diagnosis Codes reported.  |
| S019  | Principal Procedure is Blank, yet Other Procedures are reported.   |
| S021  | Age is illogical with Principal Diagnosis Code   |
| S023  | Place of Occurrence E-Code is required.  |
| S029  | Place of Occurrence E-Code cannot be the Principal E-Code.   |
| S054  | Age of the patient is greater than 120 years old.  |
| S059  | New Diagnosis Code is reported <u>BEFORE</u> the Effective Begin Date (October 1).   |
| S060  | Old Diagnosis Code is reported <u>AFTER</u> the Effective End Date (September 30).   |
| S080  | Date of Birth is after the Service Date.   |
| S086  | Sex is illogical with Female Principal Diagnosis Code  |
| S087  | Sex is illogical with Male Other Diagnosis Code  |
| S088  | Sex is illogical with Female Other Diagnosis Code  |
| S102  | Duplicate E-Codes reported in Principal E-Code and Other E-Code fields.  |
| S103  | Duplicate Other E-Codes reported.  |
| S104  | Principal E-Code is blank, yet Other E-Codes are reported.   |
| S105  | Age is illogical with Other Diagnosis Code   |
| S108  | Age is illogical with Principal E-Code   |
| S109  | Age is illogical with Other E-Code   |
| S114  | New CPT-4 Procedure Code is reported <u>BEFORE</u> the Effective Begin Date (January 1 or July 1).   |
| S116  | New E-Code is reported <u>BEFORE</u> the Effective Begin Date (October 1).   |
| S119  | Old CPT-4 Procedure Code is reported <u>AFTER</u> the Effective End Date (December 31).  |
| S121  | Old E-Code is reported <u>AFTER</u> the Effective End Date (September 30).   |
| S123  | Service Date is Out-of-Range for the report period.  |
| S124  | New Disposition of Patient Code reported <u>BEFORE</u> the Effective Begin Date.   |
| S125  | Old Disposition of Patient Code reported <u>AFTER</u> the Effective End Date.  |
| S126  | New Expected Source of Payment Code reported <u>BEFORE</u> the Effective Begin Date.   |
| S128  | An Evaluation and Management (E&M) code should not be reported as Principal Procedure <u>when</u> there are other surgical procedures reported on the record. Replace the E&M Code with one of the Other Procedures that is more closely related to the Principal Diagnosis and is the chief reason for the encounter. |



**WARNING STANDARD EDIT FLAGS AND DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(Non-Critical Flags)**

| <b>Warning<br/>(Non-Critical)<br/>Standard Edit Flag</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--|--|
| SW05   | Principal Diagnosis: HIV test result reported.   |
| SW06   | Other Diagnosis: HIV test result reported.   |
| SW25   | <p>Missing Principal E-Code. The cause of injury E-Code is required for the reported Principal Diagnosis.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> If your facility is the first episode of care* for this injury, poisoning, or adverse effect being treated or diagnosed, then the Principal E-Code must be reported on the record. If your facility is not the first episode of care*, then do not report the E-Code.</p> <p>* First episode of care includes ED or AS encounter, or hospital admission (discharge record). It does not include doctor's office.</p> |